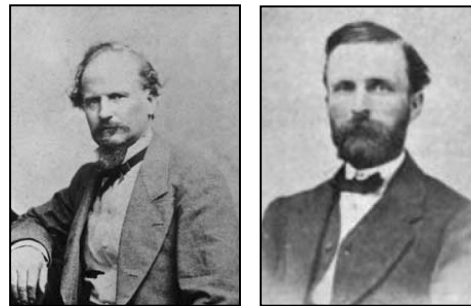


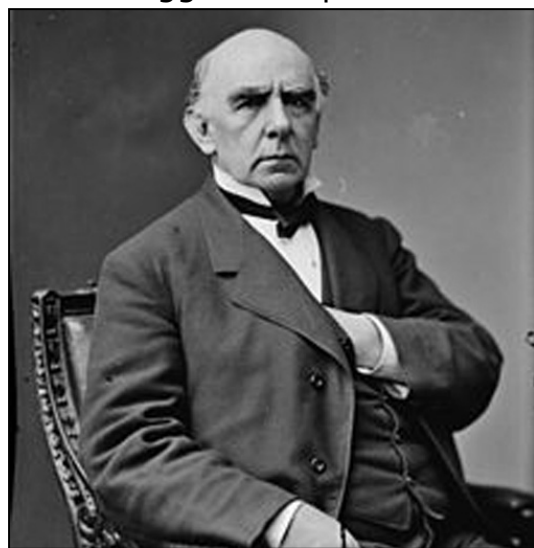
*Pieces of Iowa's Past*, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the Legislative Session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All italicized text/block quotes in this document are taken directly from historical publications with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

## **Background**

During the construction and ongoing design planning of the Iowa State Capitol, early reports of the Capitol Commissioners describe a building that included the State Library. Architects Alfred Piquenard and John Cochran submitted a handwritten proposal referencing the "State and Law Library." The Legislature adopted the submission, but asked Edward Clark, the supervising architect in Washington, D.C., to make modifications that would lower the cost of constructing the building.



**Alfred Piquenard   John Cochran**



**Edward Clark**

Clark's suggestions placed the library in the east wing on the second floor of the Capitol with committee rooms below on the first story. After the Legislature appropriated additional funds, the original plan from Cochran and Piquenard was chosen. The library was to be located on the west side and provide library space up to a ceiling height of 29 feet with committee rooms planned above on the third story.

After a visit to Lansing, Michigan, in 1879, the Capitol Commissioners further revised the design.

### Excerpt from 1880 *Capitol Commissioners' Reports*

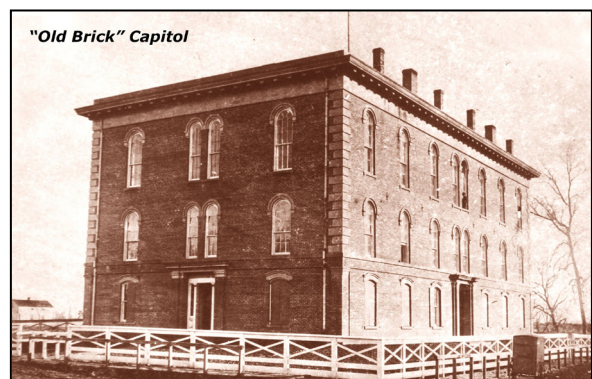
The members of the committee that visited Lansing were very much pleased with the library room of the Michigan capitol, and at their suggestion the Board directed the architects to arrange, if practicable, some plan for taking out the committee rooms above the library, and increasing the height of ceiling of that room from 29 to 45 feet. The plan has been furnished, and it is thought to be a great improvement on the room as originally designed; and the committee think that when the room is completed it will present a much finer appearance than any library they saw at Washington or elsewhere. The importance of the early completion of the library has been repeatedly urged upon the Commissioners by members of the bench and bar of the State; the necessity of protecting a large number of books that in case of fire could not be replaced at any price, has had their thoughtful care and attention; but the appropriation of 1878 was only large enough to inclose the building, nothing more.

### Iowa State Capitol Library

The Legislature urged the Commissioners to finish the building. Not only did they want to move into the large, beautiful rooms in the new statehouse, but they also felt the need to protect the library collection from the poor conditions in the Old Brick Capitol.

On January 17, 1884, the Capitol was dedicated. All of the rooms on the second and third floor (including the library) became occupied at that time. The Capitol was completed more than two years later on June 30, 1886.

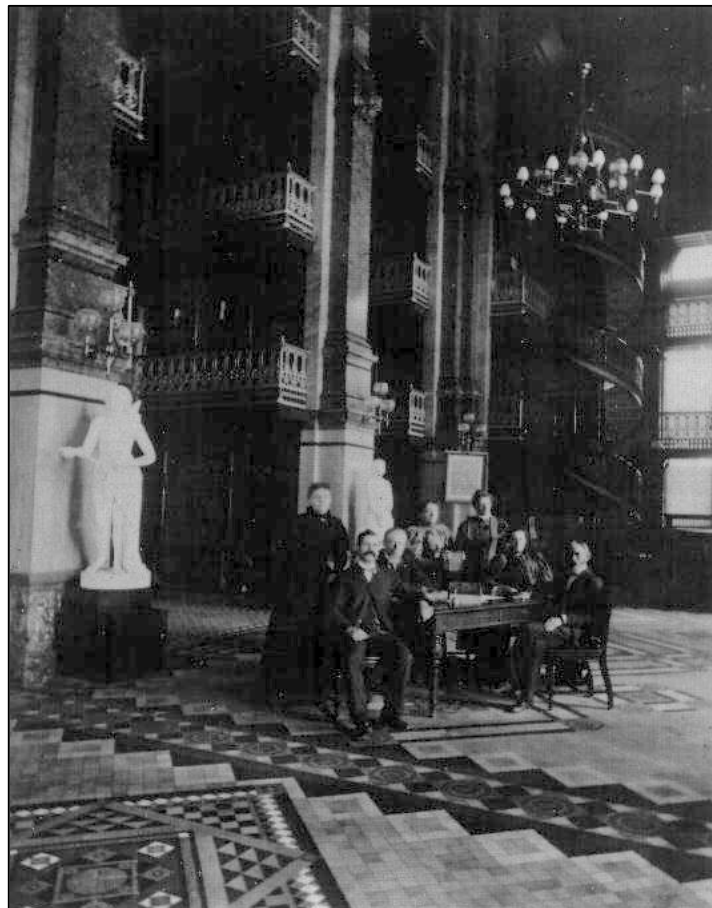
The entire library collection was housed in the new Capitol's magnificent library until the



Historical, Memorial, and Arts Building (Ola Babcock Miller Building) was completed in 1910. With the exception of the legal volumes, all of the book collections were moved to that new building. Space within the Capitol's "Law Library," as it became known, quickly became limited and the attic above became a storehouse for about 60,000 books.



The attic collection was eventually moved and the main collection was reduced by removing duplicate copies and unused volumes. There are currently about 100,000 books in the Law Library collection.



**State Library and Law Library staff 1896. The statues in the background are the Petri and St. Cecilia done by artist Harriet Ketchum.**



Excerpt from 1884 *Capitol Commissioners' Reports*

**(Work already completed in 1882 and 1883)**

**Excerpt:** *The spiral iron stairs in the Law Library were installed on-site by Haugh, Ketchum and Company of Indianapolis for \$2,107.24. Haugh, Ketchum and Company also provided the iron railings for \$2.96 per lineal foot (delivered but not installed).*

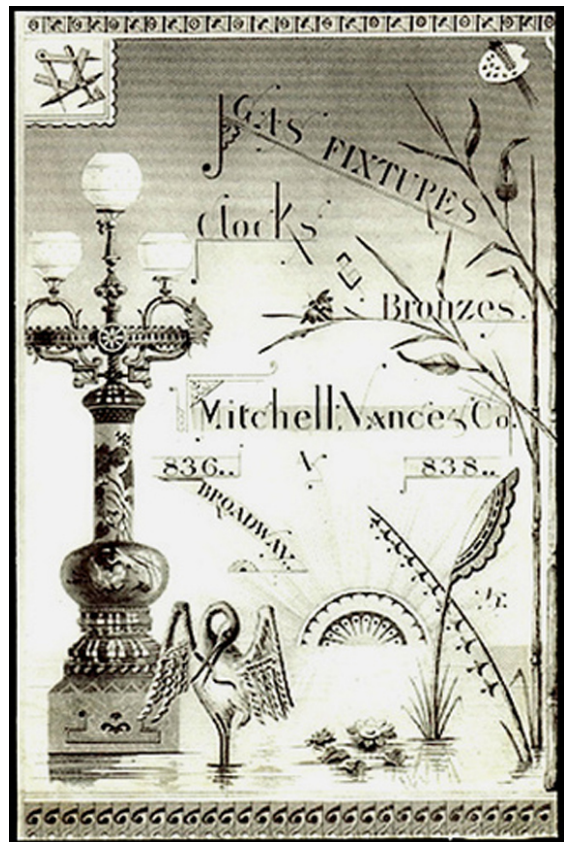
*Mitchell, Vance and Company of New York provided the gas light fixtures for the library.*

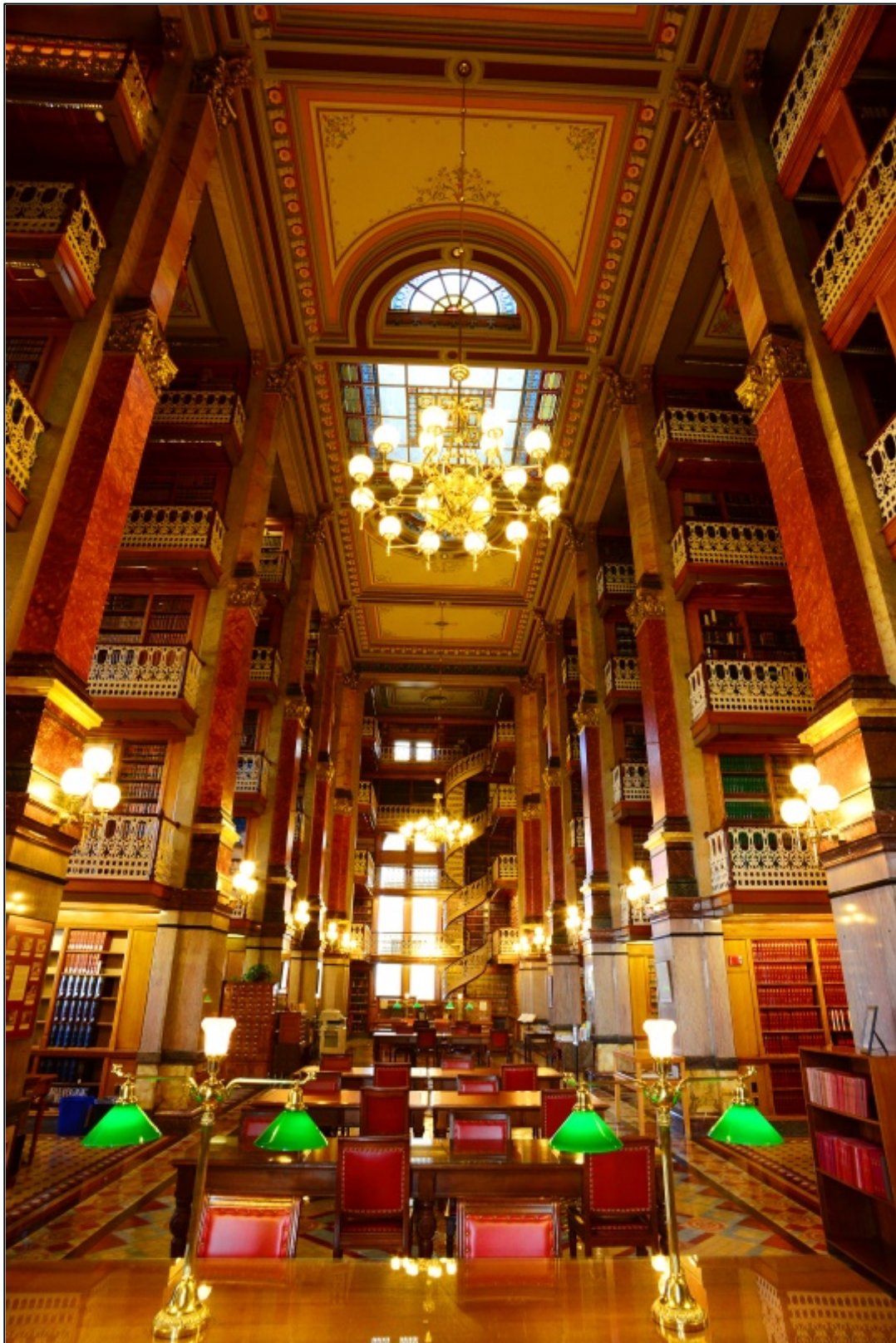
*George A. Misch of Chicago provided the stained glass for the skylight for \$2.00 a square foot (delivered but not installed).*

*Western Sand Blast Company of Chicago provided the plate glass at 50 cents per square foot and embossed glass for the skylight and doors for 60 cents per square foot.*

*Robert Fisher of New York provided the marble for the first story pilasters of the library for \$1,475.00 and the wainscoting between the pilasters of the east front wall and the Knoxville border around wall-hole for the sum of \$511.00.*

*Encaustic tile floors were provided by the United Sates Encaustic Tile Company of Indianapolis, Indiana, for \$1440.32.*





***Color Capitol Law Library photos: Gary Hoard Photography***